

CLAIMS PHONE CO. IS LOSING MONEY IN D. C.

Profits Cut Down Considerably by Cost of Labor, Says Sylvan.

T. P. Sylvan, assistant to the president of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, was the main witness before the Public Utilities Commission yesterday on the question of an increase in the rates for Washington telephone service.

His afternoon testimony was a mass of figures designed to show that under existing conditions in the labor market and with the increased cost of materials, the company could not continue to operate at a profit under the existing rates.

His testimony will be continued today. The commission has denied the right of opponents to cross examine the witness.

To Hear Objectors.

The opponents of the increase will have their innings after the company has presented its case. Commissioners Brownlow ruling that the interests of the Federation of Citizens' Associations and others who oppose the plan would not be jeopardized by delaying their objections to the increase until the full case of the company had been offered to the commission.

Those listed as opposed to the company's plan were: Jesse P. Crawford, of the Connecticut Avenue Association; Edward E. Clement, of the Board of Trade; Theodore M. Judd, of the Real Estate Brokers Association; H. A. Heilmuller, who designated himself as "just one of the public"; E. P. Armstrong, of the Rhode Island Avenue Suburban Association; W. B. Todd, of the Columbia Heights Association; Samuel Herrick, of the Cathedral Heights Association; D. F. Fletcher, of the Takoma Park Association; Charles W. Russell, of the Brightwood Park Association and others.

Declaring that additions to the company's property made this year and planned for next year will exceed the costs of normal additions by \$3,500,000 Mr. Mayne, junior counsel for the company, presented a table of percentages, showing that the increase in revenues last May fell far under the increase in expenses and that corresponding losses have been registered each month of the current year.

Mr. Sylvan stated the company is not looking for credit, but that it has buckled down to work and done the best it could while other enterprises in the country were troubling the government as to how to solve various problems presented by the war.

NUTSHELL NEWS.

Samuel W. Moore, a negro, who recently escaped from the District Reformatory at Lorton, was brought to this city by Detectives Kelly and Mullen from Pittsburgh, where he was captured Tuesday night. Moore killed a trusty at the District jail twenty-seven years ago and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mrs. Lillian B. Schick was granted an absolute divorce from John J. Schick, who is an employee of the Washington Gaslight Company. The couple were married September, 1912, and separated two years later. Mrs. Schick was represented by attorneys E. L. Gies and Amos C. Crounse.

Another Washington boy has been graduated from the Princeton Aviation School. He is J. C. Edgerton, son of James A. Edgerton, purchasing agent for the Postoffice Department, 1646 Park road. He was one of twenty of an original squadron of 57 to get through and made the course without a demerit or a demotion.

William A. Boyd, proprietor of a drug store at 3201 Georgia avenue, reported to the police that his store had been entered through a rear window Tuesday night and \$25 in cash, \$7 worth of stamps, and nine boxes of cigars valued at \$43 was stolen.

A black handbag containing \$14 and some small change was snatched from the hands of Mrs. Dora Rakusin, 1106 Sixth street northwest, by a young colored boy while she was standing at the corner of Sixth and N streets northwest. Mrs. Rakusin furnished the police with a description of the boy and said she could identify him.

The Washington Railway and Electric Company was sued yesterday in the District Supreme Court for \$5,000 damages by Robert P. Dyson.

The plaintiff alleges he received serious injuries when a car of the defendant company collided with a team he was driving on B street on June 15 last.

The Capital Traction Company was made defendant in a \$10,000 damage suit filed yesterday in the District Supreme Court by Christina Heil. She alleges that she was injured by an employee of the company trying to close the door of a car. The accident happened, she states on Pennsylvania avenue northwest November 9 last.

The Joint Committee on Interstate Commerce, or "Newlands" committee, after its meeting yesterday, adjourned subject to the call of the chairman. It may be some weeks before the inquiry into American railroads is resumed.

Again yesterday the Committee on Privileges and Elections failed to secure a quorum, and so the La Follette inquiry was not continued. The committee should have met in order to extend the life of its subcommittee.

Special!

Accordion Ribbed Silk Reeler, in six two-tone colors or combinations

\$3.65 to \$6.00

OTHER REEFERS, \$2.00 to \$10.00

The Raleigh Haberdasher, 1109-11 Penna. Ave.

Pages of Senate to Be Guests at Dinner Party

The Senate Restaurant tomorrow will have the annual crowd of youthful guests of Vice President Marshall—the pages of the Senate.

A special dinner and souvenir menu card is being arranged by the cafe for the young messengers of the "greatest men" of the "greatest nation."

ADVERTISING AGENTS TO AID GOVERNMENT

War Activities Will Be Promoted Free of Charge.

Plans for taking advantage of the offers of advertising agencies all over the country to assist in getting before the public such government activities and projects as merit extensive advertising were discussed yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the advertising board of the Public Information Committee.

The discussion brought out the fact that by accepting the offers of co-operation of the various agencies there would be no interference with the work of any Federal department handling the publicity end of the government activities, but that the agencies would merely co-operate in such manner as the government might desire.

The board which has the matter under consideration is composed of the following: William H. Johns, chairman, president of the Association of American Advertising Agents; Herbert Houston, chairman of the National Advertisers' Advisory Board; W. C. D'Arcy, president of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World; L. B. Johns, president of the Association of National Advertisers, and O. C. Harn, one of the founders of that organization.

Kiddies Within U. S. War Zone To Get Presents

American Army Officers Purchasing Thousands of Gifts, Which Will Be Presented from Regular Christmas Tree.

By NEWTON C. PARKER.

With the American Army in France, Dec. 20.—American army officers entrusted with the Christmas functions have begun to purchase thousands of dollars worth of presents for the children within the zone of American headquarters and camps.

These presents will be presented from a tree to be arranged by the Samlax for Christmas Day. The tree will be in a unique setting, namely, within one of the hangars of an American air squadron.

The purchasing officers are seeing to it that every boy and girl gets what they want. They have visited all and the purchasing lists have written on them whether little Susanna wants a doll or little Jean desires a rifle. For the refugee children overcoats or shoes are being bought. Large quantities of turkey and all that goes with it are arriving within the zone for the Samlax' dinner.

Several old folk songs of Russian and Finnish origin were a further addition to the program.

In connection with the Christmas choruses a number of Scriptural tableaux were staged, representing the Nativity, the Star of Bethlehem, the angel of peace and angels bearing the tidings of the birth of Christ.

Miss Elizabeth Winston, as solo pianist, gave an effective rendition of Chopin's Scherzo (Opus 20) and his whirlwind waltz of Opus 32. Her only other solo was an interpretation of the dignified harmonies of Saint Saens' etude of Opus 32.

John Waters, the barytone, sang the "Holy Night."

A section of the Marine Band contributed the English, French and American national anthems to the program.

Rules Against Federal Reserve.

Attorney General Gregory yesterday ruled that the Federal Reserve Board has no authority to grant to national banks in New York the power of trustee, executor and administrator.

DRAFT BRIDE FREED BUT HUSBAND IS HELD

Mrs. Florence Brigham Tries to Assume All the Blame.

Mrs. Florence Brigham, charged with making a false statement in connection with the exemption affidavit filed by her husband, Frederick Brigham, was released from custody yesterday on \$1,000 bail. The husband lacked a bondsman.

Both the husband and wife, according to the indictment returned against them last Wednesday by the grand jury, participated in a fraud to aid the husband in escaping military duty.

Mrs. Brigham endeavored to shoulder all the blame. He swore falsely, she stated, at her prompting. Her main worry, she said, was their baby, born a few days before registration day.

Brigham was formerly employed at the Government Printing Office, but resigned, he said, because of a better offer from New York, where he and his wife were arrested.

Their child is in a Washington institution.

CENTRAL HIGH PLANS TO HONOR SOLDIERS

Plans to honor former students of Central High School now in war service—about 500—were discussed by Central High School Alumni Association Wednesday night. Girls of the senior class are daily adding more stars to the immense service flag which they are making, as reports come in of additional enlistments.

There will be no difficulty in locating friends at the reunion next Wednesday, as signs will be placed in the auditorium, so that each group may get together.

Registration Bureau Has Been Abandoned

On account of the tremendous amount of work required of the room registration bureau of the Washington Chamber of Commerce the board of directors of that organization ordered the bureau abandoned at a meeting in the rooms of the chamber late yesterday afternoon.

Unless the project was abandoned, it was declared, the chamber would suffer great financial loss and the growth of the bureau had reached such proportions as to render its continuance imperative.

WILL EXAMINE THREE OF SHIP BODY TODAY

Hurley, Stevens and Donald to Take Stand in Senate.

Three of the most important officials of the shipping board will be examined at once. The inquiry begins today before the Senate commerce committee.

Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the board, and president of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, will take the stand. Later, R. B. Stevens, vice chairman of the board, and treasurer of the fleet corporation, and John A. Donald, a commissioner of the board, and vice president of the fleet corporation, will be heard.

At a meeting yesterday the Senate committee decided to ask for: 1—Itemized statements concerning contracts for each steel or wooden ship, and all facts relating thereto. 2—How many ships have been built. 3—How many ships are building. 4—Copies of all contracts.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children

IN USE FOR OVER 30 YEARS

Always bears the signature of *Dr. J. C. Ayer*

ICE SKATES

LOTS OF THEM COME EARLY

Men's and Boys' Key Clamp Skates... \$1.50 to \$7

Ladies and Girls' Leather-back Skates... \$2, \$3, \$4

Screw-on Skates, for men and boys... \$3 to \$8.50

Skating Shoes... \$5.00

Woolen Caps... \$1.00

For the Men's and Boys' Xmas Present

\$6.00 Army Sweaters... \$5.40

\$3.50 Army Ship-on Sweaters... \$2.95

Extra-heavy Wool Sox... \$1.00

Rugby and Soccer Footballs... \$1.50 and \$2 up

Basket-balls... \$2.25 and \$3 up

Striking Bags, \$1.50 & \$2.50 up

Boxing Gloves, set of four... \$1.50 and \$2 up

Air Rifles, single and repeaters... \$1.50 and \$2 up

Ball-bearing Roller Extension Skates... \$2.25

WALFORD'S,

909 Pa. Ave. N. W.

HIRSH'S SHOE STORES—1026-28 Seventh St. N. W.

The Key to Your Holiday Gifts

OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

BEAUTIFUL SLIPPERS AND DISTINCTIVE SHOES

IT'S right here at Hirsh's—the key to that problem of useful and practical gifts for every member of the family. For what could possibly give more lasting pleasure to dad, mother or big and little sisters and brothers than a pair of comfortable Slippers or attractive Shoes?

And the time to buy is now—while our stocks are complete. Come up today and select those Gifts.

THE PRACTICAL GIFT For Women and Growing Girls

ENGLISH WALKING BOOTS

In Mahogany Tan, Havana Brown Kid and Gray Kid

At the Economical Price of **\$4.85** ⁹ Inches With Military Heel

These boots have been acknowledged by leading fashion experts to be the last word in shoe designing. A pair of these beautiful English Walking Boots is just the present to give HER. She will appreciate them and they will remind her of the giver for many months. We honestly believe them to be worth twice as much as we are asking for them.

For those who want other different styles and models, they will find a big collection awaiting them at Hirsh's at the same price, \$4.85.

Models in solid colors and two-tone combinations of leather and nubuck or cloth tops are shown here at this same price. Wing tips and new heel shapes are among them. These leathers are included:

Nut Brown, Havana Brown Kid, Mahogany Tan, Demi Kid, Havana Brown with Wine-color Nubuck Tops, Gun Metal with Gray Nubuck Tops, Battleship Gray.

Women's Felt Pompom Slippers

At a Bargain Price **79c**

In six solid colors and six two-tone colors.

Women's Felt Slippers

In any desired color. Flannel lined; very resting to tired feet.

95c

Women's Felt Juliettes

In lavender, pink, blue, gray and black; plush-bound; ornament in vamp. Specially priced at

\$1.23

Women's Felt Boudoir Slippers

In the following colors: Pink, blue, lavender, gray, garnet and black. Trimmed with silk ribbon; bow ornament in vamp. Special for this sale.

\$1.19

CHILDREN'S TAN AND BLACK "SKUFFLERS"

Natural shape; plenty of room for the toes; wide extension soles and heel.

Sizes 5 to 11, \$2.85.

Sizes 11½ to 2½, \$3.45.

BOYS' TAN AND BLACK AMERICAN SCOUT SHOES.

Just the gift for your boy—he'll be proud of them. Made sturdy for hard wear.

Sizes 9 to 13½, \$1.95.

Sizes 1 to 5½, \$2.45.

Women's and Growing Girls' Dark Mahogany Tan 8-10 inch Lace Boots, Good year welt, 1½ inch military heels and perforated vamps.

\$4.85

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\$4.85

Women's Special High-grade FELT JULIETTES

Plush-bound and beautiful tassel ornament in vamp. Attractive looking; makes a fine gift; in any desired color.

\$1.95

Misses and Children's Natural Shape High-cut Tan Shoes

With Perforated Vamp. A model that is particularly comfortable and eminently stylish, and one that will make an appreciable gift.

Sizes 8½ to 11, \$2.45.

Sizes 11½ to 2, \$2.55.

Misses' Patent and Gun Metal High-cut Shoes

Tip and plain toe; black cloth- and all-leather top. Sizes only 11½ to 2.

\$2.95

Just the Present for a Boy—a Pair of Our High-cut "Storm Fighters"

With bellows tongue and two strong buckles. He will be pleased with their sturdiness and comfort. Parents will realize real economy in them. Sizes only 1½ to 6. In tan only.

\$2.95

HIRSH'S SHOE STORES

1026-28 7th St. N.W.

Washington's Fastest-Growing Shoe House.